

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 IO-13 EB-08 /108 W
-----049592 251548Z /45

R 251430Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5419
INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, LY, GU
SUBJECT: SEKOU TOURE CONCLUDES LIBYA VISIT

BEGIN SUMMARY: GUINEA'S SEKOU TOURE CONCLUDED WEEK LONG
VISIT TO LIBYA APRIL 23. DEPARTURE -- LIKE ARRIVAL -- WAS
VERY ELABORATE AND QADHAFI, MAKING ONE OF HIS RARE AIRPORT
APPEARANCES, WAS ON HAND TO SEE HIS GUEST DEPART. PROTOCOL
WAS SIGNED WHICH CALLS FOR COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC, POLITICAL
AND CULTURAL FIELDS. END SUMMARY.

1. GUINEAN PRESIDENT AHMAD SEKOU TOURE, ARRIVING IN QADHAFI'S
PERSONAL PLANE, WAS ELABORATELY WELCOMED TO TRIPOLI AFTERNOON
OF APRIL 17. QADHAFI, WHO RARELY GREET VISITRS AT AIRPORT,
WAS ON HAND TO RECEIVE HIS VISITOR. IN ADDITION TO DIPLOMATIC
CORPS, SEVERAL THOUSAND LIBYANS HAD BEEN TRANSPORTED TO
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SCENE TO PROVIDE BACKGROUND CHEERING. FULL LIBYAN
CABINET PLUS CHIEFS OF ARMED SERVICES HEADED RECEPTION
LINE. HONOR GUARD WAS DOUBLE USUAL SIZE AND LIBYA'S
NEW FLAG MADE ITS DEBUT (GREEN BACKGROUND WITH GOLD
EAGLE AND BLACK, RED AND WHITE SHIELD). FIRST DAY OF
VISIT WAS HIGHLIGHTED WITH DINNER HOSTED BY QADHAFI
(ANOTHER RARITY) AT NEW BANQUET HALL IN COLONEL'S HEAD-

QUARTERS COMPOUND.

2. DURING HIS STAY, SEKOU TOURE VISITED TRIPOLI AND NEARBY UQBA BIN NAFI (FORMERLY WHEELUS) AIRBASE WHERE HE VIEWED LATEST SOVIET WEAPONRY SENT TO LIBYA INCLUDING THE SU-22 "SWING WING" LIGHT BOMBER AND THE TU-22 MEDIUM BOMBER. HE ALSO VISITED BENGHAZI AND THE JEBAL AKHDAR AREA OF EASTERN LIBYA. SEKOU TOURE DELIVERED SEVERAL LONG SPEECHES DURING THE WEEK WHICH EMPHASIZED GUINEA'S COMMITMENT TO REMAIN WITH LIBYA AT THE FOREFRONT OF AFRICAN NATIONS FIGHTING "IMPERIALISM," "COLONIALISM," AND "RACISM." SPEECHES WERE PHILOSOPHICAL IN TONE AND CONTAINED NO SPECIFIC PROGRAMS. THEY WERE, NEVERTHELESS, WIDELY PUBLICIZED IN LIBYA AND PLAYED REPEATEDLY ON THE STATE RADIO NETWORK.

3. DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING SEKOU TOURE WAS HIGH LEVEL AND INCLUDED PRIME MINISTER DR. LANSANA BEAVOGUI AND THE MINISTERS OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS, JUSTICE, INFORMATION, AND PLANNING IN ADDITION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE DIRECTOR OF BANKS, THE DIRECTOR OF GUINEA AIRLINES AND OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS.

4. LOCAL MEDIA GAVE MUCH PLAY TO ROLE OF LIBYAN ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL AID IN GUINEA, BUT ONLY ONE NEW PROTOCOL BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WAS MADE PUBLIC UPON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEKOU TOURE'S DEPARTURE FOR MALI. THIS PROTOCOL, WHICH WAS SIGNED FOR LIBYA BY AGRICULTURE AND AGRARIAN REFORM SECRETARY MUHAMMAD ALI AL-TABU AND FOR GUINEA BY MIN-AGRICULTURE (NOT OTHERWISE IDENTIFIED) INCLUDES A PROGRAM FOR COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND CULTURAL FIELDS. NO DETAILS ARE KNOWN.

5. COMMENT. CONTRAST BETWEEN THE "DELUXE" CLASS TREATMENT FOR SEKOU TOURE AND THE FIRST CLASS AND TOURIST CLASS TREATMENT ACCORDED RESPECTIVELY TO PREVIOUS VISITORS OULD DADDAH OF MAURITANIA AND MALLOUM OF CHAD WAS VERY MARKED INDEED. IMPRESSION HERE IS THAT THIS WELCOME WAS NOT SOLELY FOR SHOW ALONE, AND THAT TRIP MAY HAVE RESULTED IN MORE CONCRETE COMMITMENTS ON THE PART OF LIBYA FOR GUINEA THAN ARE APPARENT AT FIRST GLANCE AND WHICH MAY NOT BE KNOWN FOR SOME TIME.

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APRIL 23. DEPARTURE -- LIKE ARRIVAL
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